

REMARKS

The Examiner rejected claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent 6,365,141 to Nye. The Examiner further rejected claims 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent 3,839,384 to Morehouse in view of U.S. Patent 5,300,669 to Akamatsu. Claims 1 to 6 have been canceled. Therefore, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are rendered moot. Therefore, the Applicants request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

The Examiner objected to claims 7 to 9 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The Examiner admits that claims 7 to 9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Original claim 7 depended on independent claim 5. The Applicants amended claim 7 as the Examiner suggested to include the limitations of claim 5. Claims 8 and 9 depend on claim 7. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objection to claims 7-9.

The Examiner allowed claims 10-12.

New claim 13 has been added. Claim 13 depends on claim 7 and includes the limitations of canceled claim 6. Therefore, new claim 13 does not add new matter to the application.

The Applicants have particularly pointed out and distinctly claimed the subject matter that they regard as their invention, and the instant invention is novel and unobvious. Reconsideration of the application is requested. The Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner allow all claims to issue.

This response is being submitted within the three month response period for response to the outstanding office action. Although the Applicants believe in good faith that no extensions of time are needed, the Applicants hereby petition for any necessary extensions of time. You are authorized to charge deposit account 04-1520 for any fees necessary to maintain the pendency of this application.

Respectfully Submitted,
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